

LONGEST CONGRESS IN HISTORY ENACTS FINAL LAWS

Enlivened by Break Between Wilson and House Leaders and Two Foreign Wars—Five Members Die.

The first regular session of the Sixty-third Congress, which began December 4, 1913, has come to an end. Begun as an uninterrupted continuation of the special session called by President Wilson a month after his inauguration, it is the longest sitting of Congress in the history of the nation.

The work, including that of the special session for tariff reform and income tax provisions, represents the legislative achievement of the first democratic Congress since March 4, 1807. The chief enactments include the new currency law, anti-trust legislation, repeal of the toll exemption provision for American coastwise ships in the Panama canal and the provision to build a government railroad in Alaska.

The Congress was remarkable for the fact that in less than two years it had to deal with conditions arising from two foreign wars—the revolution in Mexico and the European conflict—and was on the verge of facing a war between the United States and Mexico. Both of these situations demanded emergency legislation, some of which may have far-reaching effect upon the future course of the nation in its foreign affairs.

One Notable Break.

As a rule the utmost co-operation between democratic leaders in Congress and President Wilson marked the session, although one notable break occurred in the party over repeal of the tolls provision of the Panama canal act. This led to an alignment which placed the President and some of the party leaders on opposite sides, among those who took issue with the chief executive being Speaker Clark and Majority Leader Underwood. Speaker Clark's defense of his position to repeal furnished one of the most spectacular moments in the history of the House.

The President appeared before joint sessions of the House and Senate on five occasions. He delivered his general legislative message December 8. Subsequent messages were on anti-trust legislation, the Mexican situation, pleading for continuation of "watchful waiting," the tolls repeal bill and the necessity for a war revenue bill.

Most Important Laws.

Most important of the laws enacted by the Congress since December 1, 1913, were:

Federal reserve act, creating twelve regional reserve banks and federal reserve board of control and reforming the currency system.

Federal trade commission act, creating a commission of five members and absorbing the bureau of corporations to investigate organization, conduct and practices of industrial corporations; institute into unfair competition and alleged violation of anti-trust acts; to aid the Department of Justice and the courts in the prosecution of business offenders; to make public information deemed to be of public interest relating to industrial conditions, and to recommend remedial business legislation.

The Clayton anti-trust act, which provides for guilt of individuals connected with corporations convicted of violating the anti-trust laws, limits interlocking directorates, prohibits holding companies which will lessen competition, prevents exclusive and tying contracts, liberalizes laws relating to injunction and contempt, and exempts from prosecution under anti-trust laws agricultural, horticultural, fraternal and labor organizations.

Act repealing provisions of the Panama canal law exempting from payment of tolls American vessels engaged in coastwise shipping of the United States.

The Alaska railroad law, providing for government construction and operation of 1,000 miles of railroad, with telegraph and telephone lines, from the Pacific coast to interior waters and mineral region of Alaska, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000,000.

Laws placing on the Pacific coast to the United States and naval militia of the states, subjecting them in time of war to the call of the President.

Law regulating cotton future sales on stock exchanges, providing a tax of 2 cents a pound on sales for future delivery unless actually delivered under conditions and grades established by the Department of Agriculture.

Emergency Measures.

Overhauling much other important legislation were emergency measures demanded by the extraordinary conditions precipitated by the war in Europe. Such legislation included the following measures:

War revenue law, imposing special internal revenue taxes to aggregate approximately annual revenue of \$30,000,000 to offset estimated Treasury deficit due to loss of customs receipts during the European war.

Amendment to Panama canal act admitting to American registry foreign-built ships of American ownership to engage in overseas and South American trade.

Emergency currency act, permitting banks of national currency associations to issue circulating notes up to 15 per cent of their unimpaired capital and surplus, and making available to banks of the country more than \$1,000,000,000 of emergency currency.

Law creating in the Treasury Department a bureau of war risk insurance, appropriating \$5,000,000 to insure ships of American registry against hazards of the European war.

Resolutions appropriating \$2,750,000

and urged ratification, but held up by Senate for ratification. The Panama canal act and the subsequent repeal of the toll exemption provision. The committee has not yet made its final report. The House lobby committee reported a resolution of censure against Representative McDermott of Illinois, who resigned his office in connection with the Panama canal strip action on both treaties was deferred until next session.

Congressional Investigations.

Investigations by Congress were less than has been undertaken in recent sessions. The special lobby investigating committee of the Senate, however, continued its existence and probed into alleged lobbying in connection with the passage of the Panama canal act and the subsequent repeal of the toll exemption provision.

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Notwithstanding its achievements, the Congress left much important unfinished. Much of this legislation will be taken up for consideration in the winter session, though it was impossible, in the opinion of administration leaders, to consider all of it before adjournment March 4 next.

Some of the subjects unconcluded are the following:

Government purchases of merchant vessels, advanced as part of the emergency program but postponed by agreement with the President until next session.

Revision of immigration laws, including an illiteracy test, passed by the House and approved by Senate committee, but never passed in Senate.

Other Laws Enacted.

Regulation of development of water power in navigable streams and other natural resources on public domain.

Bill providing eventual independence for the Philippines, which passed the House, but was deferred until next session by Senate.

Bill to provide rural credit legislation by establishment of a system of farm mortgage banks.

Resolution providing for submission of constitutional amendment granting suffrage to women, passed in House, defeated in Senate and reintroduced.

Bill to provide for submission of constitutional amendment for national prohibition.

Measure for regulation of stock exchanges and boards of trade under act and reported by Senate committee on banking and currency.

Bill for greater safety at sea and amelioration of condition of sailors, passed by both houses, considered in conference and recommitted to Senate committee on commerce.

Measure for limitation of campaign contributions.

Constitutional amendment limiting service of a President of the United States to a single term.

National aid to building of good roads, bills for which were reported this session.

Reorganization of the civil service.

Measure providing for government licensing of cotton warehouses, which passed the Senate, but was held up in the House, and other measures contemplated for relief of cotton situation in the south.

Controversy Over Appointments.

Interesting features of the session were controversies in the Senate over several of the President's appointments.

The nomination of H. M. Pindell of Peoria to be ambassador to Russia led to a prolonged inquiry by the Senate committee on foreign relations.

The nomination was once withdrawn. Mr. Pindell was later renounced, and was replaced by William C. Clegg, who was confirmed by the Senate.

Another controversy, Mr. Warburg, once refusing to appear before the banking and currency committee, eventually yielded, and his appointment was confirmed by the Senate.

Two senators—William O. Bradley of Kentucky, republican, and Augustus O. Bacon of Georgia, democrat—died during the session. Three deaths occurred in the House membership—Representative Irving S. Pepper of Iowa, Robert G. Bremner of New Jersey and William Richardson of Alabama, all democrats.

INFORMER GIVEN 10 YEARS; TOLD RUSSIANS OF CABLE

John Lingens, Inspector of Tilsit Telegraph Office, Condemned by Court-Martial.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

Germany, October 8.—John Lingens, inspector in the telegraph office here, was condemned by court-martial today to ten years' imprisonment for high treason, committed during the Russian occupation of Tilsit.

The Russians, upon their arrival, were most anxious to learn the location of the underground cable from Tilsit. They subjected the director of the telegraph office, Herr Pappendorf, to a close cross-examination. Pappendorf, a patriotic and patriotically minded man, had refused to give the cable.

Lingens stepped forward, uncalled for, and endeavored to tell the Russians that Pappendorf had been working for them, but that he had been managed to get out of Tilsit to safety.

The Russians, through Pappendorf's courageous attitude, were unable for some time to find the cable. Although the cable was cut, the Russians remained in communication with the German armies for some time after the occupation.

DISTRICT D. A. R. TO MEET.

Society Plans to Aid in Raising Red Cross-Relief Fund.

Arrangements have been made for a meeting of the District D. A. R. at the Shoreham tomorrow afternoon.

One of the objects of the meeting is to raise funds for the Red Cross. Miss Boardman and Miss Jane Delano, superintendent of the Red Cross nurses, will be the guests of honor.

The daughters are very much interested in the Red Cross and many of them have already given generous contributions to swell the fund in their behalf.

The Maryland Christian Endeavor Union will hold its twenty-first annual convention Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week in Lafayette Square Presbyterian Church, in Baltimore.

DISTRICT LEGISLATION PASSED AND REJECTED DURING LAST SESSION

Attempt in House to Overturn Organic Act and Double Tax Levy on District of Columbia Property Fails.

In the history of the District of Columbia the second session of the Sixty-third Congress may properly be noted as a crisis in the affairs of the National Capital, as a deliberate attempt was made in the House of Representatives to undermine the organic act of 1878, and to destroy the half-and-half principle of appropriations.

Failing in the direct attack on the organic act, as proposed in the Crisp bill to set aside that fundamental law, the Johnson-Prouty faction of the District committee amended the George taxation and assessment bill in such a manner that had it been enacted, property owners in the District of Columbia would now be paying just about double the present tax, and the United States government would find no necessity for carrying out its intention and promise to pay one-half of the expenses of its Capital city.

However, after a grueling struggle on both sides of the question, the House refused to change the present method of taxation. This occurred May 12, 1914. The George bill and the Johnson-Prouty substitute were both cast aside by the House. This was the most dramatic, and perhaps the most vitally important moment for the District of Columbia in the entire session.

Unexpended Appropriations.

Parallel to the fight on the George bill and the Johnson-Prouty substitute was the attempt to enact "section 8" of the District appropriation bill. This provided that all District revenues not spent by an appropriation bill should be turned over to the United States Treasury.

It was thrown in conference by its author, Representative Page of North Carolina, said many times that the chief value the section had was to act as a sop to those members of the House who seemed bent on destroying the relations between the city and nation; and that if section 8 remained in the appropriation act there would be less strength shown in the fight to overthrow and otherwise damage the organic act.

Soon after the session opened Representative George brought up his taxation and assessment bill in the committee on the District of Columbia. It was the result of two years' investigation into the taxation pay assessed here, and the report on the bill charged inequalities in the assessment and offered a new method of conducting the assessor's office, together with a proposed law for assessment of real estate at true value.

Having assessed all the real estate in the District of Columbia, the Commissioners were then to be empowered to impose a tax rate on that assessment placed for relief of cotton situation in the south.

Johnson-Prouty Plan.

There was good and evil in this bill, in the view of many students of the affairs of this city, but it was comparative perfection when contrasted with the bill as eventually amended in the District committee. Representative Johnson of Kentucky and Representative Prouty of Iowa wrote a section whereby everything—real estate, personal property, money, jewelry and all things taxable in the District—was to be taxed at their full value at the rate of 1.50 per cent. This was admitted to be a method of taxation which would bear a double tax; to make it unnecessary for the United States to pay anything for its big properties here and to undermine the organic act.

The House took a lively interest in the fight, which was led by Representatives Johnson and Prouty against the District and by Representatives Cresser and George for the District. Many friends of the city developed in unexpected quarters during the fight, and it became one of the firm beliefs of the conservative element in Congress that before any further attempts are made on the organic act a thorough study of the relations between the District and the United States should be made by a competent commission.

Burden on Citizens.

While the defeat of proposed legislation has made a heavy mark in District history in this session, the passage of the appropriation act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, contains a section burdening property owners with a partial cost of paving and repairing of streets. This was known as the Borden amendment and as modified in conference and now in the law, provides that street paving and resurfacing of streets shall be paid for one-fourth by the United States, one-fourth by the District, and the remainder, one-half, by the owners of adjacent property in all cases of streets up to forty feet in width. In the paving and resurfacing of streets more than forty feet wide the property owners are to pay their proportion only on forty feet, the remainder to be borne equally by the District and the United States.

While the appropriation bill was in conference a provision was inserted to the effect that owners of property improved by the reclamation of the Anacostia flats were to be assessed as beneficiaries of the value of the improvement to their property. The total amount carried in the appropriation act was \$12,125,539.49, which was \$788,800.49 in excess of the previous act but was not entirely pleasing to the District because of its failure to provide for many projects necessary in keeping pace with the growth of the city.

Municipal ownership of the street car systems of the District of Columbia was brought to the form of a bill introduced and reported favorably by the House by a portion of the District committee led by Representative Cresser of Ohio and opposed in minor report by Representative Winlow of Massachusetts.

An attempt was made to amend the loan shark law by raising the legal rates and thus allow remedial loan companies to operate.

The House passed a bill to require real estate transactions to show in the papers the true consideration named between buyer and seller; a measure for free rides for policemen and firemen passed the House.

Representative Igoe's bill requiring the owners of property to bear the entire burden of the cost of the District's share of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia from a fee to a salary basis.

Red Light Bill.

The Kenyon "red light bill" was enacted in this session. The so-called "alley bill," designed to clean up many alleys, was enacted in accordance with the request of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson a few hours before her death.

A law limiting the hours of work for women in the District to eight hours per day and to six days in the week was passed at the solicitation of the National Consumers' League. The same league obtained a favorable report from the Senate committee on education and labor on a resolution providing for an

concerning the price awarded to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for the property it owned in the condemned area. His claim that the award was excessive induced the President to withhold his approval, resulting in delaying payment to scores of property

owners of meager resources, with consequent hardships. Two resolutions were drafted to meet the situation, both having the payment of individuals as the chief end, but the Johnson resolution was finally enacted. It provides for an entirely new com-

mission to handle the acquisition of the property and the payments therefor, and states specifically that the railroad's property is to be paid for at the original cost price plus 8 per cent a year since its purchase by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

JARDIN DE DANSE



Formal Opening

Monday, Oct. 26

2 P.M. Tea Dansant 8 P.M. Supper Dansant

Refined Entertainment Amid Elegant Surroundings

Tea Dansants daily (except Sunday), 2 to 6:30 p.m. Dancing, including tea and toast, 50c.

Supper Dansants daily (except Sunday), 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dancing, including light refreshments, 75c.

A la Carte Services of French Pastry, Ices, Confections, Sandwiches, Salads, Chocolate, Tea and Coffee.

Special Announcement

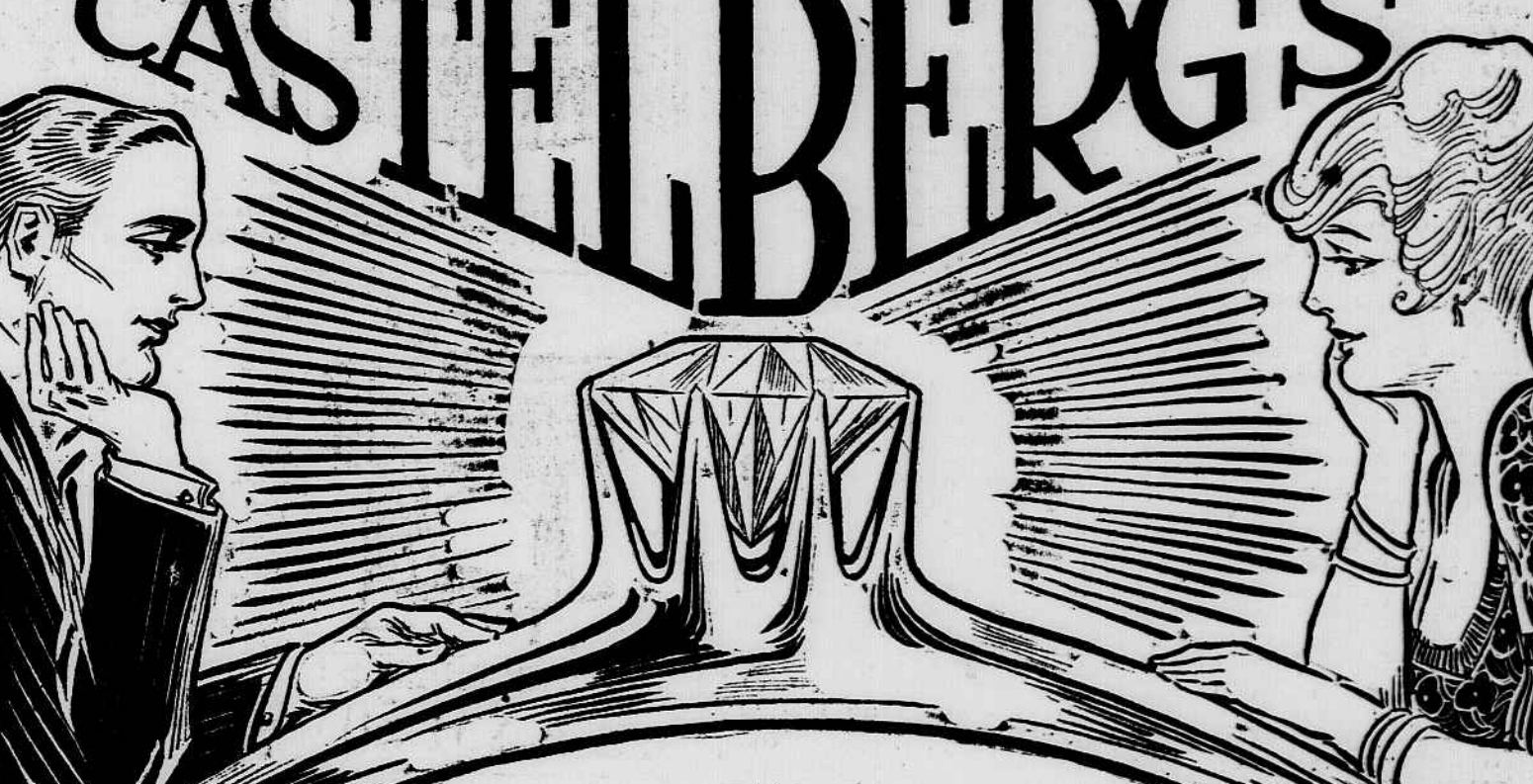
Miss Bertha King, Chief Instructress of the Castle House, New York city, and Mr. Carl Heisen, direct from Rector's, will appear in the latest Metropolitan Dances at the formal opening Supper Dance, 8 p.m. Monday Evening, October 26—will also dance at the Tea Dansant—2 to 6:30.

Music by Jardin de Danse Orchestra

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On any diamond purchased from us in the past we will allow you 10% more than you paid for it if you wish to exchange it this week for a stone of greater value, and with your present purchase we will give you a Gold Bond Guaranty agreeing to allow, at any time in the future, another 10% more than you paid for it if you again wish to make an exchange for a stone of greater value.

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